## Testimony of

## **Amy Van Zandt**

## **Pomperaug Educator**

Before the

**Education Committee** 

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

While I am about 2/3 of the way through my career, I support the efforts being made to help younger educators succeed. My largest personal concern is ensuring that my husband (also an educator) and I have a comfortable retirement after dedicating our lives to public education. We have watched while state employees have been addressed. Now it is our time for you to show the same level of concern, care, and respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration.